

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
LAWYERS

1. THE PARIS-BASED UNION INTERNACIONAL DES AVOCATS
(INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS, UEA) WILL BE SENDING A
DELEGATION TO ARGENTINA FROM MARCH 12 TO 18. THE UEA IS AN
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, WHOSE OVER 1,000 GROUP AND
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS COME FROM SOME FORTY COUNTRIES. THE
PRESTIGIOUS ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
IS A MEMBER.

2. THE DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF UEA PRESIDENT ALBERT
ZURFLUH, WHO IS A FRENCH CITIZEN, VICE PRESIDENT HAROLD H.
HEALY, A U. S. CITIZEN, AND POSSIBLY EITHER THE SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE GROUP FROM BARCELONA, ANTONIO PLASENCIA, OR
THE SECRETARY GENERAL FROM MILAN, MARIO SCAMONI. THE
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GROUP WILL PROBABLY ALSO REPRESENT THE LONDON-BASED
INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (IBA). THE AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION IS A MEMBER OF IBA.

3. THE DELEGATION IS CONCERNED BASICALLY WITH THE WELFARE
OF LAWYERS WHO HAVE EITHER DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA OR ARE
BEING HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE DETENTION. MR. HEALY HAS

CONSULTED WITH HERB SEMMEL OF THE CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY, WHO AS THE EMBASSY KNOWS, HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A SIMILAR MISSION TO ARGENTINA AND HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN.

4. THE UEA TEAM WILL MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BAR GROUPS, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND FAMILIES OF DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED LAWYERS. MOST APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING ARRANGED BY THE ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH SUGGESTED THE VISIT IN THE FIRST PLACE AND HAS OFFERED TO HOST THE DELEGATION. WHILE UEA WELCOMES THE LEAGUE'S ASSISTANCE, IT IS CONCERNED THAT CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE LEAGUE CAN TO SOME EXTENT UNDERMINE THE INTERNATIONAL AND APOLITICAL NATURE OF THEIR GROUP THEREBY LESSENING THE IMPACT OF THEIR VISIT. FOR THIS REASON THE DELEGATION WILL EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS VISITING ARGENTINA BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OF ITS MEMBERS WITH THE SITUATION THERE. THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE GROUP WHICH BELONGS TO UEA, DR. ALFREDO R. SIVORY, WILL HELP COORDINATE THE VISIT AND THIS SHOULD DIFFUSE THE LEAGUE'S SPONSORSHIP SOMEWHAT. IN ADDITION, THE GROUP MAY SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FRENCH AND U.S. EMBASSIES IN SETTING UP ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS. DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES COOPERATION IF SUCH ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPOINTMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR COULD BE ARRANGED FOR MR. HEALY.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL CABLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GROUP'S ITINERARY AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. IN THE MEAN-TIME ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON VISIT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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